



News for Immediate Release
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Contacts:

- [Don Strickland](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9515
- [Ted Thomas](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9712

Pumping Continues at Jones Tract

SACRAMENTO – Department of Water Resources officials reported this morning that pumps removing floodwater from Jones Tract since Monday, July 12, 2004, had lowered the level of the lake covering 12,000 acres of farmland by four inches. That translates to 4,000 acre feet of the approximately 150,000 acre feet of water that flowed onto the island when part of the Middle River levee collapsed on June 3.

Four 42-inch pumps on Upper Jones Tract are working around the clock, each removing 50,000 gallons of water per minute. Meanwhile, Ford Construction Company, Inc., of Lodi, which has a \$3,853,000 contract to dewater the island by mid-October, is installing four additional 42-inch and two 30-inch pumps on Lower Jones Tract. When all 10 of the submersible diesel-powered hydraulic pumps are running, they will combine to pump a half-million gallons per minute.

Only essential personnel are being allowed into the pumpout area, but DWR is making videotape available, on request, to television news operations. Still photos are posted on DWR's Web site for use by print media:

[Levee Break Pictorial](#)

Newspersons desiring updates or interviews at the DWR Incident Command Post should call Bill Burkhard at (209) 598-7579

Water quality monitoring will continue throughout the pumping operation. Middle River remains closed to recreational boaters near the breach repair and the pump stations. Motor vehicle traffic on the Jones Tract levee roads is limited to those who have essential business in the area.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in

water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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